

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 remains in this application.

Claim 2 was previously canceled.

Claims 3-8 remain in this application.

Claim 9 was previously canceled.

Claims 10-12 remain in this application.

Claims 13 and 14 are being canceled.

Claims 15-18 remain in this application.

Claims 19 and 20 were previously canceled.

Claim 21 remains in this application.

Claims 22 is being canceled.

Claims 23-25 remain in this application.

Claim 26 is being canceled.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (previously presented). A topical composition comprising:

at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid;

non-toxic zinc salt; and

water, wherein the composition has a pH of 3.5 to 4.1.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of about 3.7 to about 4.0.

Claim 4 (original). The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 5 (original). The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 6 (original). The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound is selected from the group consisting of cystine, cysteine, N-acetyl cysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, methionine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (original). The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes aminosugar.

Claim 8 (original). The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar includes glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-phosphate, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (original). The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, deionized water, distilled deionized water and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is present in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 5% (w/v).

Claim 12 (original). The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulfate.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (original). The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol, hydroxypropylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 17 (original). The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes alkylene glycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 18 (previously presented). A topical composition comprising:
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid, a non-toxic zinc salt, and having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (original). The composition of claim 18, further comprising a stimulant of protein synthesis.

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (original). The composition of claim 18, further comprising a precursor of melanin synthesis.

Claim 24 (previously presented). The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.

Claim 25 (original). The composition of claim 18, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

Claim 26 (canceled).

CONCLUSION

The present paper constitute an amendment to the claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of amendments. Applicant requests that this case be allowed and pass to issuance.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2426 of Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C. (referencing number 41758/P001P1C2X1).

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 713-650-2776.

Respectfully submitted,

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